

Private Group, Public Menace



► Interpol Secretary General Raymond Kendall presented then Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega with an award in praise of his anti-drug activities just before Noriega was indicted in the United States for his role as a major international drug trafficker.

INTERPOL

A Police Organization Involved in Criminal Activities

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"In general, the list of presidents and executive members of Interpol reads like a Nazi who's who during, as well as after, the war. [And] if you then place a Nazi in charge of a fascist organization like Interpol, the result of such a crossbreed is dreadful to contemplate."

Hon. Louis Kent
Member of Parliament
Australia

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*An urgent appeal to re-examine
Interpol's history, policies, and activities,
and the wisdom of sanctioning its
continued presence and operations in the
free world.*

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Interpol: Private Group, Public Menace

If officials of the International Criminal Police Organization had their way, the name "Interpol" would conjure up pictures of James Bond-type characters, using the most modern means to track down the world's most sinister criminals.

Those familiar with Interpol's history and activities, however, know that this fictitious image is just that — pure fiction.

Many have described what this private police group really is and how it actually operates:

"Interpol cannot be sued in any court in the world. As a result, the organization is completely above the law and answerable to no one."

— Mourad Oussedik
French attorney and
expert on Interpol

"The peculiar thing is that Interpol has immunity as an Inter-Governmental Organization, while they are not such an organization.

"This puts them above the rules of privacy, especially those in relation to police. This is dangerous as it lays open the possibility of misuse of their system."

— Professor Douwe Kuyff
Dutch expert on
international law

"Interpol's protective curtain enables fugitive Nazis, including those tried in absentia and convicted by various member-nations of Interpol, to remain at large, not only unmolested, but actually protected and guarded by local police organizations in charge of aliens."

— Ludislas Farago
American author

"Interpol cannot be sued in any court in the world. As a result, the organization is completely above the law and answerable to no one."

— Mourad Oussedik
French attorney and
expert on Interpol

"[T]he Nazis used Interpol's files, not to hunt down international criminals, but to other ends. They wanted these Interpol files of people formerly wanted or of people arrested once in other countries in order to use or abuse these people for political ends...."

— Simon Wiesenthal
Austrian Nazi hunter

"Interpol constantly undertakes measures that interfere with the rights of individuals (especially the extensive storage and transmission of personal data)...."

— Dr. Reinhard Riegel
West German government
expert on data protection laws
and individual rights

"... to many veteran law officers who have dealt with Interpol, it is a slow-moving, archaic bureaucracy which seldom performs useful work."

— Robert Walters
in Parade magazine

World leaders have pointed out what needs to be done:

"a. The status of Interpol with the Council of Europe should be reviewed;

"b. An inventory of transgressions committed by Interpol should be drawn up;

"c. Effective ways to control the International Criminal Police Organization, Interpol, in a democratic fashion should be considered ... so that Interpol hereafter will be accountable for its acts...."

— Motion for a Resolution
by members of the
Council of Europe

A Brief History of Interpol

► "Now what we do know is that the Nazis used Interpol's files, not to hunt down international criminals, but to other ends. They wanted these Interpol files of people formerly wanted or of people arrested once in other countries in order to use or abuse these people for political ends...."¹

— Simon Willmetts, former Nazi hunter, Vienna, Austria



Gesteau Colonel Otto Steinhilber, president of Interpol from 1938 to 1940, pictured on the cover of the commemorative issue of Interpol's magazine, July 10, 1940.

Around the turn of the century, European police began to encounter a new and difficult problem. A crime could occur in Paris, for example, and a short time later, the perpetrator could be safely across the border in Germany. The speed of rail travel made this possible.

Beginning in 1904, French police made several attempts to establish a European central police force to combat the increasingly mobile criminal. In 1914, French efforts resulted in the First International Congress of Criminal Police, held in Monaco.

World War I interrupted any further efforts at centralization. After the war, the balance of European power changed. The Austro-Hungarian empire was split into several smaller countries, each with its own police force. All centralized records of the old empire, however, remained in

Vienna, which became the center of much of Europe's cooperative police activity.

In 1923, the head of Vienna's police force invited the heads of European, North American, and South American police forces to an International Police Congress, which opened in Vienna on September 3 of that year. Approximately 130 delegates from 20 countries attended.

The congress recessed after agreeing to create the International Criminal Police Commission.² The group set up an office and had a cable designation of Interpol.

It was decided at the 1923 congress that the head of the Austrian police would automatically be the president of Interpol. Up until World War II, the group continued to be dominated by Austrians, who provided all of the funding and most of the executive personnel.

In the 1920s and early 1930s, Interpol functioned as a loose association through which police officials could get to know each other and share ideas.

Cooperation among its member police forces was informal. Few, if any, of them had the authority to bind their governments to any arrangements they might make. Nonetheless, cooperation occurred — as a former secretary general of Interpol, André Bussard, stated in 1985, "For a long time we operated as a sort of 'professional club.'"

The coming to power of the Nazis in Germany changed this basis of operation.

■ Nazi Domination

As early as 1936, the Nazis had a plan for using their Kriminalpolizei (or criminal police) for counterintelligence purposes. As shown during World War II, Interpol, under Nazi Germany, was a vital part of this plan.

¹From "Dossier Interpol," Studio 22, Blaricum, Holland, © 1977 by Ben Schmiters and Van Der Sluis.

²It was renamed the International Criminal Police Organization in 1956.

A Brief History of Interpol



Left: Gesteapo Colonel Otto Sternhauss, president of Interpol from 1938 to 1940. Right: Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Interpol president from 1943 to the end of the war, was hanged at Nuremberg for war crimes.

At 8 a.m. on March 12, 1938, Nazi Germany invaded Austria. By noon of the same day, Dr. Michael Stribl was removed from his positions of Austrian chief of police and president of Interpol by Heinrich Himmler, head of all of the German police and security forces, and placed under arrest. Himmler freed from prison one Otto Sternhauss, a Nazi who had been imprisoned in Austria for several years, and made him the new chief of the Austrian police and the new Interpol president.

Sternhauss was subsequently featured on the cover of the July 10, 1940, issue of Interpol's publication, the *International Criminal Police Review*, in his full uniform as a Gesteapo colonel.

Interpol During World War II

During the war, Interpol was part of the Nazi genocide machine and its resources were used to round up minorities, including Jews and Gypsies, who were sent to death camps in Poland and elsewhere.

The June 1938 issue of *International Criminal Police Review* included a discussion of sterilization in which a Dr. Schult of the Reich Ministry for Health was quoted as saying, "Only those should be rehabilitated who are found genetically healthy and worthy."

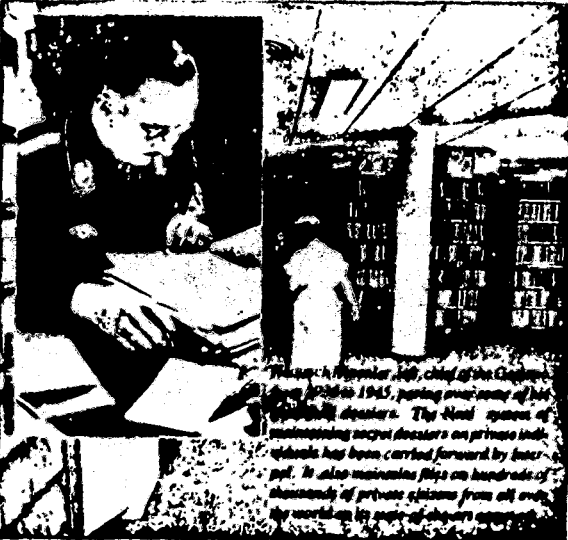
In the July and August 1938 issues of *International Criminal Police Review*, there were wanted notices for people described as "Jewish" or of the "Jewish type."

According to Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, who spent years researching this subject, Interpol was also used to obtain the services of counterfeiters, forgers and spies.¹ As part of a Nazi plan to counterfeit British currency, for example, counterfeiters and forgers were rounded up, using information in Interpol's files.

The roll call of Nazis involved in Interpol during the war years includes such notorious figures as Heinrich Himmler, Reinhard Heydrich, Artur Nebe, and Ernst Kaltenbrunner.

Chief of the Gesteapo from 1936 to

¹From "Dossier Interpol," Studio 22, Blaricum, Holland, © 1973 by Ben Schwartz and Van Der Stuij.



Heinrich Himmler, 1945, posing as one of his "mobile killing units." The Nazi system of maintaining secret dossiers on private individuals has been carried forward by Interpol. It also maintains files on hundreds of thousands of private citizens from all over the world in its post-war activities.



Left: Interpol's Artur Nebe directed "mobile killing units" that murdered some 45,000 people. Right: Nazi collaborator Florent Louwage was Interpol's first post-war president.

1945, Himmler was the "father" of the Nazified Interpol. He found in Interpol a vehicle to create and accumulate more of his cherished dossiers, containing intimate details on private individuals.

Heydrich, president of Interpol from 1940 through 1942, was known as "the Hangman." Among other atrocities

in his career, he sponsored the infamous Wannsee Conference, during which 16 top Nazis, including Adolf Eichmann, gathered in Berlin's Wannsee suburb to map out the "final solution to the Jewish problem."

After Heydrich was killed by Czech patriots, Ernst Kaltenbrunner, a Nazi since 1932 who had been twice imprisoned, became Interpol's new president. While president, he reportedly enjoyed going to extermination camps to view various methods of killing — including hanging, shooting and the gas chamber.

Artur Nebe, a vice president of Interpol under Kaltenbrunner, directed Nazi "mobile killing units" that brought about the death of some 45,000 people, and assisted in Nazi "medical experiments."

Nebe's deeds included the wartime destruction of the Czech town of Lidice. Despite the denials of the Lidice inhabitants, Nebe asserted they had helped those who had killed Heydrich. He had all of the men and some of the women in the community shot; all of the babies had their throats slashed. The surviving women and children were shipped to two concentration camps.

After World War II

After the fall of the Nazi regime, Interpol's president, Kaltenbrunner, was hanged for war crimes in 1946. Later that year, representatives of 16 nations gathered in Belgium at Interpol's first post-war meeting to attempt a reconstruction.

Of the five officials in charge of calling the meeting, at least three had been involved in one way or another with the Nazis during World War II. These three were Florent Louwage of Belgium, Harry Soderman of Sweden, and Louis Ducloux of France.

Louwage worked for Interpol before the war, and continued to work for

it throughout the Nazi occupation as a member of Interpol's permanent staff in Belgium.

Soderman, an expert forger and counterfeiter, worked closely with Interpol through the war years, becoming a permanent member of the Commission in 1942.

Ducloux served during the war with the Sûreté Nationale, a French political police organization which collaborated with the Nazis and suppressed Jews, the French resistance, and "political undesirables."

The heart of the Nazi system to control society was secret dossiers. Interpol today is built around its secret dossiers. It also maintains files on hundreds of thousands of private citizens from all over the world on its state-of-the-art computer.

Reinhard Heydrich, "the Hangman," was Interpol president from 1940 until his assassination in 1942.



Nazi President Paul Dickopf

In 1974, researchers for the National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice (NCLE), an organization established by the Church of Scientology to protect citizens' rights against corrupt police actions, discovered that Paul Dickopf, Interpol's president from 1968 to 1972, had been a member of the Nazi SS² during the war.

Dickopf's personnel file contained his SS number (337259) and verification of his Nazi activities, including

²The SS, or Schutzstaffel (elite guard), was in charge of intelligence, security, police actions, and extermination activities, including the death camps themselves.

his membership in the Sicherheitsdienst (SD), the Nazi party's security service. It also held a 1939 photograph of Dickopf in his SS track suit.

When these facts were first publicly released in 1974, Interpol denied the story outright. The group's then secretary general, Jean Nepote, who had himself been a police official with the collaborationist government that ruled France under the Nazis during World War II, asserted that the information was false or that the researchers had identified the "wrong man."

Interpol subsequently changed its story in 1975 and admitted Dickopf's SS membership. Its new claim was that the membership had been involuntary. As historians will attest, however, there was no such thing as involuntary membership in the SS.

According to a secret report of the German Federal Criminal Office, released to the news media in 1988, Dickopf had pretended to be a Nazi opponent, and used this position as a cover during the war and later.

The report had been written by Helmut Prante, a former department chief with the Federal Criminal Office, who had worked directly under Dickopf.³ Prante had examined the written records of his boss of many years and concluded that Dickopf's personal effects clearly showed the SS man had carefully constructed his cover as a "Nazi opponent."

Professor Armand Morgen stated in his book, *The BKA Story*, "Today, I know that Dickopf was a double agent who never quite dropped his oath from the time he was an SS Untersturmbandführer [a high-ranking SS leader] and Abwehr officer [counter-intelligence officer]."

According to the BKA documents

³ Dickopf headed the Federal Criminal Office from 1956 to 1971.

⁴ An acronym for the German Federal Criminal Office.



Paul Dickopf, shown in his Nazi SS track suit in 1939, and as the retiring president of Interpol in 1972.

released in 1988, Dickopf had supposedly gone into hiding in 1942, but was still receiving his pay as an SS officer and Abwehr officer in 1944.

In a letter to *FREEDOM Magazine* on March 14, 1975, Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal wrote that Paul Dickopf "always refused to support the German authorities of justice in prosecuting Nazi criminals. In the direction of the German section of Interpol, there are also other persons with an SS past."

■ "For Political Ends"

Wiesenthal also described an important aspect of the Nazi takeover of Interpol:

"Now what we do know is that the Nazis used Interpol's files, not to hunt down international criminals, but to other ends. They wanted these Interpol files of people formerly wanted or of people arrested once in other countries in order to use or abuse these people for political ends...."

The heart of the Nazi system to control society was secret dossiers. These were maintained on all groups and individuals who, for example, might disagree with psychiatric theories on race or who had Jewish or international connections. Groups that fell

into these categories, such as the Seventh-day Adventists, Baptists, Christian Scientists, the Theosophical Society, the Old Catholic Church, and others, were prohibited by a secret directive issued by Reinhard Heydrich on February 15, 1938.

Interpol today is built around its secret dossiers. Its files on hundreds of thousands of private citizens from all over the world are now maintained on its state-of-the-art computer. Information compiled by Interpol headquarters is withheld from all individuals, groups, and governments, including that of its host country, France.

A Nazi mentality has continued to pervade the secret, closed world of Interpol. Now and again, however, the covering shroud slips up from around this secret world.

In the June/July 1986 issue of the *International Criminal Police Review*, for example, Secretary General Raymond Kendall quoted the words of Florent Louwage, Nazi collaborator and former president of Interpol: "The view expressed by Mr. Louwage, the first president of the resuscitated International Criminal Police Commission in the 3rd (December 1946) issue of our Review still rings true today: 'Not one ... state throughout the world may assume the responsibility of refraining from cooperation with our Commission.'"



1972 Interpol photo of Paul Dickopf

CHAPTER TWO

11

Interpol's Structure and Operation

► "Interpol cannot be sued in any court in the world. As a result, the organization is completely above the law and answerable to no one."

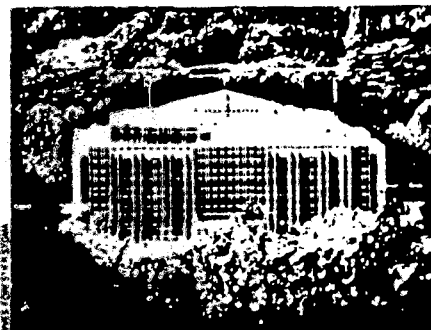
— Maurice Grosselet, noted attorney and expert on Interpol, Paris, France

Interpol is a private quasi-police group that is not subject to the direction, review or authority of any government.

The majority of its work is done at the level of its National Central Bureaus (NCBs). Interpol's offices in the member countries. As of early 1990, Interpol consisted of the national law enforcement bodies of 150 nations.

The 1948 U.S. Department of Justice Manual describes Interpol in the following manner:

"Interpol is something of a legal curiosity. It conducts intergovernmental activities, but it is not based on an international treaty, convention, or similar legal instrument. It is founded on a constitution written by a group of police officers who did not submit it for diplomatic signatures, nor have they ever submitted it for ratification by



Interpol headquarters in Lyon, France.

■ **Interpol's Structure**
Interpol is constituted in four echelons:

1. The General Secretariat. Interpol's central offices in Lyon are referred to as the General Secretariat. This is Interpol's most powerful section and contains the group's permanent staff (numbering approximately 260, including 90 police officers from 36 countries).

The General Secretariat is administered by the

secretary general, who is the chief executive officer of Interpol. He is nominated by the General Assembly (see number 2 below) and serves a five-year term.

As noted by a U.S. court¹ in a defamation action brought by an American citizen against Interpol headquarters, "Interpol appears to occupy a rather ambiguous and shadowy existence in this country."

¹ *Sherberg vs. International Criminal Police Organization et al.*, 672 F.2d 927 (D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, 1981)

The General Secretariat maintains massive volumes of information on private citizens gathered from around the world and transmitted to France. Its operations are financially supported

Interpol's Structure and Operation

by dues and other payments from its member NCBs.

The General Secretariat consists of four divisions, as follows:

A. Division I (General Administration). This division deals with finance and accounts, personnel matters, supplies, logistics and security.

B. Division II (Police Division).

This is where information on cases under investigation in member countries is centralized.

The Police Division has three main subdivisions, each of which deals with different types of crime: general offenses against persons or property (including international terrorism), economic and financial crimes, and

illicit drug trafficking. In addition to these three subdivisions, there is a section that handles the financial assets derived from criminal activities that reports directly to the head of the Police Division.

C. Division III has three subdivisions, including the organization's legal department. This division provides legal and technical reference services both for member countries and Division II. The Interpol journal, *International Criminal Police Review*, is published by this division.

D. Division IV handles the group's telecommunications, files, and data processing.

2. The General Assembly. Representatives of the member police forces meet every year in a General Assembly. Here, such matters as election of officers, decisions regarding policy, admission of new members, and approval of budgets occur. The General Assembly, according to Article 6 of Interpol's Constitution, is the "supreme authority" of Interpol.

3. The Executive Committee. The General Assembly elects the 13 members of the Executive Committee: the president, four vice presidents, and eight delegates. Its membership is derived exclusively from delegates to the General Assembly.

It is required that the members of the Executive Committee be from different countries. Their duties include supervision of the decisions of the General Assembly, agenda preparation, submission of proposals to the General Assembly for votes, and supervision of the secretary general's administration of the General Secretariat. Basically, the Executive Committee is the governing body elected by the General Assembly.

4. National Central Bureaus. Each member police force allocates space, supplies, and personnel to serve as a liaison point for Interpol communications and requests in that country. This



operation is known as each member nation's National Central Bureau, or NCB.

The information gathered by NCBs is shared with member countries around the world through a system of computerized dossiers. Requests for and transmissions of information from these dossiers go directly from one country's NCB to another country's NCB, and are routinely copied to Interpol headquarters in France.

Under such a system, there is no external control or oversight concerning the transmission of information on private citizens. According to court records and media accounts, this has resulted in (a) repeated instances of privacy invasion, (b) dossier collections, not related to wrongdoing, being kept on law-abiding citizens, and (c) sensitive information falling into the wrong hands, even at times when people's lives have been at stake.

An example of sensitive information being given to Interpol and then finding its way to where it could have caused serious loss of life is featured in the 1977 book *Entebbe Rescue*, by Israeli journalists Yeshayahu Ben-Porat, Eitan Haber and Zeev Schiff.



At the time of the assassination of Filipino leader Benigno Aquino in August 1983, Interpol President Jolly Bugarin (left) was head of the police agency responsible for Aquino's safety. Bugarin was later implicated in an attempt to cover up key evidence regarding the killing.

The book is about the rescue by Israeli commandos of the hostages seized and held at Entebbe airport, Uganda, by Arab terrorists.

The authors stated, "Israel asked Interpol to help, and forwarded secret information to their Paris headquarters, only to discover that the Arabs had gotten hold of it and they in turn had passed it on to the terrorist organizations."

Interpol's Finances

According to Article 38 of Interpol's Constitution, the group's resources are provided by "(a) the fi-

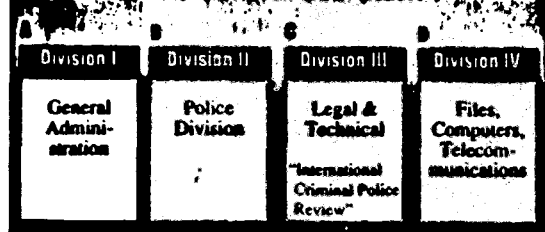
nanial contributions from Members; and (b) gifts, bequests, subsidies, grants and other resources after these have been accepted or approved by the Executive Committee."

Member countries are assigned to a budget "group," or status, based on population, national standard of living, the use made of Interpol's services, the benefit derived therefrom, and the country's financial resources.

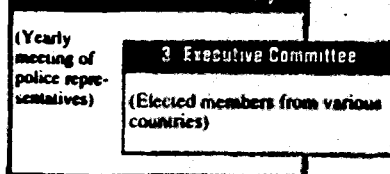
The budget group to which a member country is assigned is decided upon by the country itself, although the choice must be ratified by Interpol's Executive Committee.

The Structure of Interpol

1. The General Secretariat



2. The General Assembly



REPORT INFORMATION, ETC...



4. National Central Bureaus in various countries

Interpol's Structure and Operation

The Executive Committee proposes the annual budget which is ratified or not by the General Assembly. The Executive Committee and secretary general implement the budget in the following fiscal year.

Each year, Interpol is audited by an external accounting firm whose report goes to the president and secretary general, and is presented to the General Assembly. The report, and other details of Interpol's finances, are not made public — the group answers to no one outside itself.

Headquarters Agreement Makes Interpol Immune From Lawsuits

In the late 1970s, Interpol became the target of a number of civil rights-oriented lawsuits. In an attempt to avoid liability, Interpol began negotiations with the French government on what



Then U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim (right) with André Lewin, his personal aide, in 1975, the year the U.N. granted Interpol its Inter-Governmental Organization status. Lewin later became a minister of the French government and co-signed the Interpol Headquarters Agreement in 1982. Press accounts in 1987 exposed Waldheim as a Nazi officer during World War II.

later became known as the "Interpol Headquarters Agreement," or "seat agreement."

Through its negotiations, Interpol sought complete immunity under French law from all legal liability for itself and its officers. It also sought to shield its files from any requirement of disclosure, and to make its General Secretariat "invulnerable." In effect, Inter-

The "seat agreement" provides Interpol headquarters with complete immunity for its staff and property, and its massive files and dossiers on private citizens are shielded from legal examination.

pol sought to shelter itself from the responsibility of having to answer to any government on earth.

The agreement that was finally ratified gave Interpol practically everything it had sought. It went into effect February 14, 1984.

In the April 1985 issue of its official magazine, the *International Criminal Police Review*, Interpol announced the granting of the seat agreement. The article acknowledged that a key reason for seeking this immunity was due to the organization becoming the subject of a number of lawsuits in which civil damages against Interpol were sought.

The men primarily responsible for pushing through this agreement were Interpol's then president, Jolly Bugarin, and its then secretary general, André Bossard. Representing the French government were André Lewin, director of the United Nations and International Organizations Section of France's Ministry of External Relations, and Christian Nucci, minister of cooperation and development.

"We Also Use Criminals"

Bugarin, Interpol's president from 1980 through 1984, was chief of the Philippines' Civilian National Bureau of Investigation and head of the Filipino Interpol office under then President Ferdinand Marcos.

The Civilian National Bureau of Investigation was responsible for the protection of Marcos' political opponent, Benigno Aquino Jr. However, Aquino was shot on August 21, 1983, the moment he stepped off an airplane onto Filipino soil. Aquino's assassination started a chain of events that culminated in Marcos' fall from power.

In 1984, Bugarin was implicated in an attempt to cover up the fact that one of the assassins was a known criminal who had been a member of Bugarin's police bureau for 13 years.

When asked by a panel investigating the murder why he would hire a man who had admitted to killing more than 30 people, Bugarin, as reported by Associated Press on February 7, 1984, responded, "In the fight against crime, we also use criminals."

Bugarin left his government post with the rest of the Marcos regime in 1986, after completing his four-year term as president of Interpol.

According to July 4, 1988, wire stories by Reuters and United Press International, Bugarin also ordered one of his subordinates to suppress evidence in the Aquino murder case.

An Air of Legitimacy

Prior to André Lewin's term of service with the French government, he served as personal aide to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. In 1987, Waldheim was exposed as a former Nazi officer during World War II.¹ Later that same year, Lewin was denied the position of French ambassador to Waldheim's Austria, on the basis of his previous ties with Waldheim.

Prior to Waldheim's exposure as a former Nazi, he was responsible in July 1975 for the United Nations Economic and Social Council granting Interpol the status of an Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO). This status facilitated Interpol's international operations and gave it a much-sought-after air of legitimacy. In 1982, Waldheim publicly reconfirmed this status, according to Interpol's *International Criminal Police Review*.

The individual most instrumental in getting the Interpol Headquarters Agreement ratified by the French legislature was Christian Nucci,² head of the French ministry of cooperation and development. In 1983, he maneuvered the legislation in such a way that only five of 400 legislators were present when it was submitted for ratification.

The resultant "seat agreement" provides Interpol headquarters with complete immunity for its staff and its property, and its massive files and dossiers on private citizens are shielded from legal examination.

¹ Waldheim, who tried to conceal his wartime activities, has been barred from entering the United States by the U.S. Justice Department because of his Nazi past.

² In 1989, Nucci was charged with fraud and embezzlement in connection with the alleged misuse of more than 5 million francs (\$70,000 in U.S. currency) of French government money, which he reportedly diverted to his personal campaign fund.

The United States' View of Interpol

In a 1981 internal memorandum, Larry Simms, then deputy assistant U.S. attorney general, wrote that "Interpol, as an organization, occupies a somewhat anomalous position under our law, as it was not established by treaty or protocol, and is not generally accorded status as an international organization."

Simms' memorandum described conflicts that could arise because of the differing rights accorded the privacy of individuals under United States law and under the laws of other member countries of Interpol.

He concluded that significant difficulty could be encountered by an individual seeking legal redress against Interpol or a member country, as one of the first issues to be resolved would be which country's law, if any, could be applied.

The issue, the memorandum stated, becomes even more complex if information about an individual is first transmitted through Interpol's headquarters before being abused in a member country. The document concluded, "There are a number of possible international conflicts of law issues raised by the United States' participation in Interpol generally."

Despite these forebodings, on June 16, 1983, then U.S. President Ronald Reagan issued Executive Order 12425, providing Interpol headquarters, its officers and employees, complete



Christian Nucci maneuvered the Interpol Headquarters Agreement through the French parliament when only five out of more than 400 members were present. In 1989, Nucci was charged with fraud and embezzlement in connection with the misuse of more than 5 million francs of French government money.

immunity from any lawsuits in the United States.

"Above the Law"

Mourad Oussedik, a noted French attorney who has worked on Interpol-related civil rights cases for a number of years, pointed out that the headquarters agreement "legally prevents any outside agency from examining Interpol's archives or any of the dossiers and information currently being retained by the organization."

Oussedik noted the dangers posed by the agreement, stating, "Any National Central Bureau can shelter its records by sending them to headquarters, and Interpol cannot be sued in any court in the world. As a result, the organization is completely above the law and answerable to no one."³

³ These statements from Mr. Oussedik appeared in the March/April 1989 issue of FREE-DOM Magazine, published by the Church of Scientology.

Interpol and Drug Trafficking

► "[Panamanian Interpol Chief] Nivaldo Madriñan was receiving telexes in his Interpol office in Panama from Interpol Colombia which showed him the exact drug trafficking routes. Madriñan would then get a kickback from the traffickers, and allow the drugs to pass."

— Lt. Colonel Carlos Morrel, 38-year veteran, Panamanian military forces, Miami, Florida



In 1987, Interpol Secretary General Raymond Kendall presented then Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega with an award in praise of his anti-drug activities just before Noriega was indicted in the United States for his role as a major international drug trafficker.

Suspicion of Interpol's involvement in drug trafficking arose from observations of the group's ineffectiveness in handling the problem.

According to Interpol's own publications and pamphlets from 1989, the control of drug trafficking is the organization's number one priority, yet there has been no significant record of arrests or curtailment of the world drug trade — even in the 1970s, when the major drug routes of the world ran past Interpol's front door, through the heroin labs of Marseilles.

A 1976 GAO investigation of U.S. involvement in Interpol found that most Interpol arrest cases involved young Americans or U.S. servicemen arrested overseas with small quantities of drugs such as marijuana. Very few of the arrests involved major traffickers or suppliers.

■ The French Connection

In at least one case where there

was a large volume of drugs seized, Interpol refused to do anything.

This incident began in May 1971, when U.S. Customs agents in New Jersey discovered 96 pounds of pure heroin in the panels of a Volkswagen camper. A Frenchman named Roger Delouette was arrested when he attempted to pick up the vehicle from Customs.

During this incident, Delouette claimed to be working for the SDECE (Service de Documentation Extérieure et du Contre-Espionage, the French intelligence and counterespionage agency), and said that he had been recruited for the job by Paul Fournier. Fournier was the cover name for Paul Ferrere, an official of SDECE who had worked in French Indochina in the 1950's during the French takeover of the opium trade.

Delouette stated that he had run errands all over the world for SDECE since 1948.

French officials, including the head

of Interpol's French NCB, publicly denounced Delouette's story.

Nevertheless, an American grand jury indicted Ferrere for his alleged involvement in the crime. Some time later, a member of another French intelligence department publicly admitted that Fournier was indeed Ferrere, and that Delouette had been working for him.

U.S. officials sent evidence of Ferrere's complicity to Interpol France, but Interpol officials refused to take any action.

■ The Swiss Connection

In January 1988, the Central Police Bureau of Switzerland issued a confidential report showing that the Shakarchi Trading Company, a Lebanese precious metals firm, had been serving as a front for massive money-laundering activities, reportedly involving Iran/Contra gate principal Richard Secord and others.

A vice president of Shakarchi Tradi-

ing, Hans W. Kopp, quickly resigned his position after news of the operation broke. Kopp's wife, Elisabeth, was the Swiss minister of justice and was also in charge of Switzerland's Interpol MCB and Central Police Bureau.

Shortly thereafter, when allegations arose that Mrs. Kopp had used her position to exert her husband's influence in the investigation, she resigned her post.

Interpol in Latin America

In Latin America, close cooperation with Interpol's involvement in the investigation of drug trafficking was

in 1970, two members of the U.S. State Department's Agency for International Development (AID) investigated the conducting of drug law enforcement in Bolivia. Their report noted that two previous Interpol efforts had been arrested for trafficking in cocaine.

They did not know at the time that their discovery was the tip of the iceberg of Interpol's complexity with and involvement in South American drug trafficking.

■ **Bolivia Becomes Interpol's Stronghold**

Klaus Barbie, the notorious wartime Chicago chief of Lyon, had taken

up residence in Bolivia under the alias of Klaus Altmann. In the 1970s, he began a program of official cooperation with the Bolivian government and unofficial cooperation with Bolivia's Interpol office.

Barbie was protected by Interpol not only from extradition to France for his wartime crimes, but also from extradition to Peru for post-war criminal matters such as currency speculation and smuggling.

In 1982, Interpol rejected a French request to rely on arrest warrant on Barbie.

According to numerous press accounts, Barbie was active as an arms trafficker and was a lieutenant in Bolivia's thriving drug business. He gave advice on torture and interrogation methods to Bolivia's unnamed police force while also running a terrorist group called the Brigades of Death, the purpose of which was to dispatch any prospective trials in the cocaine trade.

Bolivia's Interpol Chief

Barbie was also a frequent visitor to Interpol's Bolivia office according to Sergio Klarfeld, a noted international (Nazi) hunter and the main responsible, perhaps more than anyone else, for bringing Barbie to justice. Klarfeld stated, "According to my information, he [Barbie] was very close to the Interpol representative in Bolivia."

"I know that he was very often in his office and that the wires of the organization were very available for him to read. This allowed him to know about a lot of cases concerning, if not himself, other persons suspected or accused of different sorts of crimes such as drug trafficking."

Interpol Head Indicted on Drug Charges

In July 1980, General Luis Garcia

Mezargue the 18th coup in Bolivia's 144 years of independence. *The Miami Herald* called it "the cocaine coup," and it was widely publicized as being financed by one of the Bolivian drug cartels.

Within minutes of Garcia's coup, Barbie was given a five-year security pass as director of a company devoted to building a navy for the beleaguered Bolivia.

The signature on Barbie's pass was that of the minister of interior for General Garcia. Colonel Luis Arce Gomez, Arce was in charge of the Bolivian Interpol office.

Arce was forced to resign his post in February 1981 because of American pressure, and was indicted in April 1983 by a federal grand jury in Miami for conspiracy to export cocaine to the United States.

Another Interpol Chief Resigns

In 1987, the then head of Interpol in Bolivia, Fernando Buntelmy, became that country's fourth Interpol chief to be linked to drug trafficking. Buntelmy resigned his post in February that year in the face of charges that he was on the drug dealer's payroll.

Extradition Interpol Office Provides Protection For Drug Traffickers

Another example of corruption under the wing of Interpol is the case of Luis Rivadeneyra of Ecuador. Rivadeneyra was arrested in December 1974 in Ecuador with two kilos of cocaine paste in his possession.

On April 21, 1975, *The New York Times* reported that soon after Rivadeneyra's arrest, Ecuador's Admiral Alfredo Pineda Burbano, head of law enforcement and in charge of Interpol's office in that country, called the police and ordered them to alter the evidence against Rivadeneyra. Riv-



deneyra was a close friend of one of the admiral's relatives.

The police did as they were told, dropped the charges, and Rivadeneyra went free.

Peruvian Interpol Chief Convicted and Sentenced For Cocaine Trafficking

From 1981 until 1984, General José Jorge Zarate was the Interpol chief of Peru.

During the time he was in this position, in 1985, he was arrested for drug trafficking. In 1987, he was indicted.

He remained Interpol chief of Peru,



In July 1980, General Luis Garcia Mezargue (left) saved a coup in Bolivia. Soon after, Barbie's Interpol chief Luis Arce Gomez (bottom left), gave Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie (above) his official Interpol passport in 1971, in return for building a navy for the beleaguered country. Barbie devoted his efforts to developing the country's thriving cocaine trade.

however, until April 1988. In June 1989, he was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison for transporting cocaine, using his own yacht.

Interpol Implicated in Terrorist and Murder

In July 1986, U.S. military advisers and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents landed in South America for a direct military assault on drug buses in the Bolivian mountains.

Although the raids were considered a limited success, DEA agents later determined that in the days preceding the raid, there had been a massive exodus of traffickers and cartel

to Panama, controlled by Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, an acknowledged international drug trafficker.

Two years later, in February 1988, Noriega was himself accused in a U.S. indictment of utilizing his official position "to facilitate the manufacture and transportation of large quantities of cocaine destined for the United States and to launder narcotics proceeds."

Incredibly, in 1978, Noriega, who was then the Interpol delegate from Panama, was appointed to head up Interpol's first Drug Division.

He was elected to this position by Interpol's General Assembly, and placed in charge of handling the inter-

Interpol and Drug Trafficking



Miguel Alvarado, former Panamanian drug minister of health. Due to his strong opposition to drug trafficking, he was arrested and imprisoned repeatedly at the time of Panama's then Interpol chief, Nivardo Madriñan.

national drug trafficking situation. In 1978, it had long been known that Noriega himself had been heavily involved in drug trafficking, and this was a matter of record in U.S. government files.

According to Noriega's former counsel, José Blandon, Noriega's last chief, Lieutenant Colonel Nivardo Madriñan, was one of the two men close to Noriega who actually controlled Noriega's drug trafficking activities.

In his 1988 testimony before the U.S. Senate hearings held by the Subcommittee on Narcotics, Terrorism and International Operations, Blandon reported on Madriñan's involvement with a series of murders, including Noriega's assassination. Blandon stated that Madriñan was involved in several "unsolved murders."

According to Guillermo Sanchez, a journalist formerly with *La Prensa* in Panama who investigated one such murder (the sadistic slaying of former Panamanian Deputy Minister of Health Hugo Spadoluri), an eyewitness confirmed that Spadoluri was tortured and threatened at Madriñan's farm in Panama, after being kidnapped at the border between Panama and Costa Rica.

Madriñan had previously been implicated in the 1983 murder of Serafin Mironi, one of the most active opponents of drug trafficking in Panama. According to Banco Vaticano, spokesman for the Panamanian embassy in Washington, D.C., Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, the former chief of staff and Noriega's second-in-command, has confirmed that Madriñan ordered that Mironi be killed to silence his anti-drug efforts. Diaz Herrera also submitted a signed, sworn



Nivardo Madriñan (left), the former Panamanian Interpol head, is said to have run the country's multi-million-dollar drug smuggling operation and has been implicated in several murders. Colonel Noriega (right), who once headed Interpol's Drug Division, had been charged with drug trafficking and money laundering on a massive scale.



the president of France, François Mitterrand, protesting Madriñan's presence at the Interpol General Assembly. As another example, Dr. Miguel Bernal, a constitutional and international lawyer formerly with the University of Panama, but currently at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, sent a letter on November 27, 1989, to Interpol Executive Committee member Robert C. Slattery (who is also the U.S. delegate to Interpol) who was in Lyon at the time attending the

under discussion at the Interpol headquarters.

Madriñan returned to Panama, where he remained in charge of all Interpol operations in that country, including the receipt of Interpol's Weekly Drug Intelligence Messages that has gone out to all member countries since 1981. This publication is a summary of all drug-related police activity Interpol was involved in during the previous week. It covers such subjects as methods of concealment,

Incredibly, in 1978, Noriega, who was then the Interpol delegate from Panama, was appointed to head Interpol's Drug Division. At that time it had long been known that Noriega himself had been heavily involved in drug trafficking, and this was a matter of record in U.S. government files.

actual drug trafficking routes, and statistics on seizures of drugs.

In December 1989, when the United States invaded Panama and ousted Noriega, Madriñan ran for sanctuary into the Valiente Nunciature in Panama City, either with Noriega, or shortly before him, after *The Washington Post*, it was probably before.

After Noriega returned himself over to U.S. forces, Madriñan did the same. U.S. military base in Panama, Madriñan has been charged with murder by the Mifflin family, and will face a Panamanian trial for his actions.

rabble—including a statue and a large photograph of Adolf Hitler and a library of books devoted to Nazism, Hitler and Fascism.

Information to Drug Cartel
Based in the 1988 U.S. indictment of Noriega is this revealing charge: "Noriega agreed to permit members of the cartel and others to continue their narcotics business within the borders of Panama and to supply them if and when any law enforcement action was to be taken against them." (emphasis added)

With easy access to Interpol data through Madriñan, Noriega would have no difficulty keeping his promise.

Colombian Drug Cartel Members Close Shelter by Interpol
Shortly after Colombia began its August 1989 war on the Medellín drug cartel, the head of Panama's Interpol office, Madriñan, offered refuge to cartel members. This is according to reports from *USA Today* and *The Washington Times*, who were in Panama at the time and who had interviewed authoritative sources with access to intelligence information.

The refuge was allegedly requested at Panama City's Freedom air base between representatives of the cartel and two Panamanian officials, led by Madriñan.

FREEDOM Magazine conducted exclusive interviews with former Panamanians who had detailed knowledge of Panama's drug trade, and Interpol's involvement in it.

One of these, Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Worrel, who served for 26 years with the Panamanian military, told FREEDOM that Madriñan and his associates, Lieutenant Colonel Luciano Miranda, smuggled cocaine from a private frame business in Panama City by stuffing the drug into hollow frames,



Miguel Alvarado (left) was indicted in January 1990 in the United States for participating in the February 1985 murder of U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camerino Sanchez. At the time of the murder, Alvarado was Interpol's Interpol chief.

then shipping the frames to Spain and France.

FREEDOM reported, "Lt. Col. Worrel also charged that information designed to assist drug smuggling has been exchanged between the Interpol offices of Colombia and Panama."

Worrel told FREEDOM, "Nivardo Madriñan was receiving letters in his Interpol office in Panama from Interpol Colombia which showed him the exact drug trafficking routes. Madriñan would then get a kickback from the traffickers, and allow the drugs to pass."

In 1984, for example, while serving in the Panamanian Defense Force, Worrel said he saw a letter arrive in Madriñan's Interpol office from Interpol Colombia, notifying Madriñan that a shipment of cocaine was heading his way by boat.

Worrel reported that the letter stated Colombian Interpol agents had allowed the shipment to slip through, and that since Madriñan would get this cue of the profit, he should let it go through, too.

Interpol and Drug Trafficking

Mexican Interpol Chief Charged with Drug Trafficking, Murder

Miguel Aldana Ibarra had been the Interpol chief in Mexico until 1983. He disappeared "practically overnight," in the words of one official, when U.S. agents revealed he had taken a bribe from drug traffickers.

On July 6, 1989, the Mexican attorney general's office opened an investigation into Aldana for corruption, drug trafficking, and possible involvement in the murder of a journalist in Mexico who was exposing drug trafficking in the country.

On January 30, 1990, Aldana was indicted by a federal grand jury in Los Angeles on charges of participating in the murder of U.S. DEA agent Enrique Camarena Salazar.

Florentino Ventura replaced Aldana as Mexico's Interpol chief in 1983. He served until September 1988, when he committed suicide.

After Ventura's death, it was revealed that he had been a member of a devil-worshipping group, the Palo Mayombe, that drew international notoriety for its crimes of drug smuggling and ritual murder. The group, operating in Northern Mexico, has been linked to as many as 15 brutal killings.

Just prior to his suicide, Interpol chief Ventura murdered his own wife and another woman.

In January 1989, during the San Diego trial of seven men accused of smuggling cocaine into the United States, a witness in the trial, David Wheeler, stated that the director of most of the illicit drug trafficking in Mexico had been Florentino Ventura.

Zia and Noriega Given Interpol Awards Despite Involvement in Drug Trade

While Interpol has been completely ineffective in stopping the drug trade, the group's secretary general, Raymond Kendall, has given Interpol awards to two men who have themselves been connected with international narcotics trafficking on a massive scale — General Mohammad Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan and Noriega of Panama — commending them for their supposed work against drug trafficking.

In July 1977, when Zia seized power in Pakistan in a military coup, heroin was virtually unknown in the country.

By 1984, just seven years later, Pakistan was furnishing 70 percent of



Current Interpol Secretary General Raymond Kendall. He presented medals to Zia (1986) and Noriega (1987), both of whom have been involved in world drug trade, for their supposed effectiveness in fighting drug trafficking.

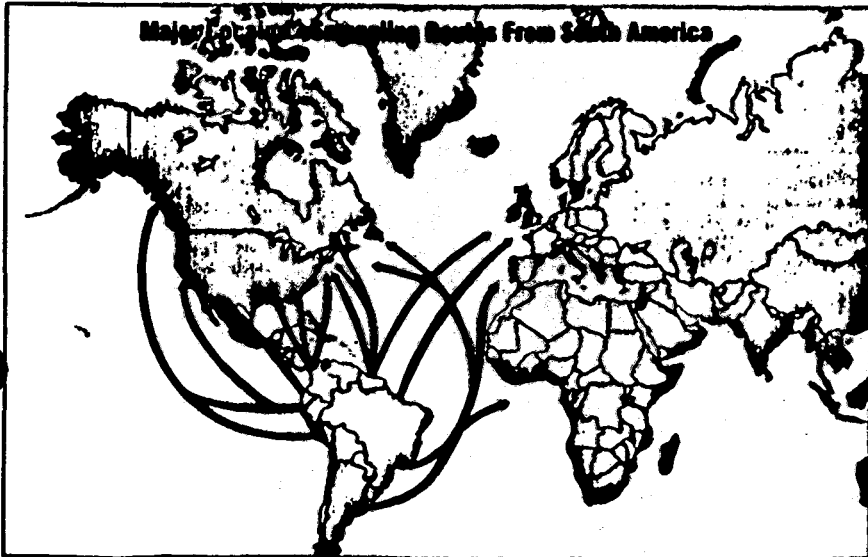


Reports from 1982 onward showed that Pakistan's Muhammad Zia ul-Haq was involved in heroin trafficking on a massive scale. In 1986, Interpol gave him a medal for fighting drug trafficking.



Elisabeth Kupp resigned as the Swiss minister in charge of Interpol following allegations that she alerted her husband to a forthcoming investigation into drug and money-laundering activities.

Major International Trafficking Routes From South America



Summary of Interpol's Involvement in Drug Trafficking

An overview of Interpol's record shows that:

- Four Bolivian Interpol chiefs have been involved in drug trafficking or linked to drug traffickers.

- A Nazi war criminal, while directing drug trafficking activities in Bolivia, was protected by Interpol.

- An Ecuadorian Interpol head is known to have provided favors to local drug traffickers.

- The Peruvian Interpol chief from 1981 to 1988 was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison for drug trafficking.

- An Interpol chief in Panama was tied to the Medellín drug cartel and was also directly involved in drug trafficking on a massive scale. He is now being held in Panama by U.S. troops, charged with murder.

- Two Mexican Interpol chiefs have been accused of running the drug trade in their country.

One of these Mexican Interpol chiefs killed his wife, another woman, and then himself; the other was re-

cently charged with involvement in the murder of a DEA agent.

- The former dictator of Panama and the former ruler of Pakistan, both having records of involvement in the world's drug trade, inexplicably received Interpol awards for international effectiveness in combating drug trafficking. The former Panamanian dictator has been extradited to the United States and is facing drug trafficking charges.

John Alderson, an honorary research fellow at Exeter University's Centre for Police and Criminal Justice Studies and a former chief constable of Devon and Cornwall in England, called in April 1989 for an elite Euro-police force to combat terrorism, arms running, drug smuggling and international fraud when border controls are relaxed in 1992.

According to a *Daily Telegraph* article of April 5, 1989, Alderson, at an international seminar on European crime for the 12 European Economic Community (EEC) states, described Interpol as an unsatisfactory body not properly accountable to the democratic process. ▲

CHAPTER FOUR

Interpol's Involvement in Politics

► "Interpol's protective curtain enables fugitive Nazis, including those tried in absentia and convicted by various member-nations of Interpol, to remain at large, not only unmolested, but actually protected and guarded by local police organizations in charge of aliens."

—Ludwig Fange, Author

After World War II, trials held in Nuremberg convicted many Nazis of heinous war crimes. Among those convicted were Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Interpol president from 1943 until his death by hanging in 1946.

Many other Nazis fled Germany, adopting new lives and identities elsewhere, using the spoils of Europe to buy safety and privacy.

The search for the most notorious Nazis became a priority for the Western world — but not for Interpol.

As noted by many authors, Nazi hunters, and historians, Interpol has consistently refused to assist with the hunt or apprehension of Nazi war criminals. The group cites Article 3 of its constitution as the reason. That article states:

"It is strictly forbidden for the organization to undertake any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious, or racial character."

However, on other occasions, In-



Auschwitz concentration camp, part of the Nazis' "final solution to the Jewish problem" that was mapped out in a meeting called by Interpol president Reinhard Heydrich.

terpol has chosen to involve itself in political, religious and racial matters.

Nazi Shielded From Prosecution

Writing in the September 1961 issue of *World Jewry*, S.J. Roth stated, "When it classified Nazi crimes as falling under these categories [political, military, religious or racial], Interpol was hopelessly wrong legally and also set up a dangerous political precedent."

He noted, "If the world will be at a loss to understand why the police should be insensitive to crimes which the governments of their countries condemn."

The World Jewish Congress' passed a resolution in 1961 asking Interpol to stop classifying Nazi war crimes as political offenses. That same

*Headquartered in Geneva, this group is committed to support national and international protection of human rights, without distinction on grounds of race or religion.

year, spokesmen for the World Jewish

"The result is that Interpol's pro-

charges as currency speculation and rigging. Interpol intervened to assist his extradition and in support of refusal of the Bolivian government to extradite Barbie.

"In a similar manner," he continues, "the efforts of federal judge Dr. Luque of Buenos Aires, Argentina to obtain the extradition of Dr. Gale from Paraguay were staved off by the Interpol organizations in Argentina and Paraguay."

Interpol Pursues Political Refugees

Although Interpol has refused to track down Nazis, it has engaged in pursuit of political refugees.

In 1950, Czech officials used the Interpol network to hunt down a group of Czech refugees who had fled to Germany for political reasons. It

INTERPOL: PRIVATE GROUP, PUBLIC MENACE

QUESTIONNAIRE AND ORDER FORM

The editors of *Interpol: Private Group, Public Menace* are interested in knowing your opinion about this handbook.

Please take a few moments to answer the following questions.

Name _____

Occupation/Position _____

Address _____

City _____

State, etc. _____ Postal Code _____

Country _____

Telephone Number _____

1. What do you like most about *Interpol: Private Group, Public Menace*?

Members of Interpol.



CHAPTER FOUR

Interpol's

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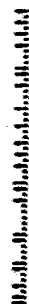


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After World War II, trials held in Nuremberg convicted 11 Nazis of heinous war crimes. Among those convicted was Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Interpol pursued him from 1943 until his death hanging in 1946.

Many other Nazis fled Germany, adopting new lives and identities elsewhere, using the spoils of Europe for safety and privacy.

The search for the most notorious Nazis became a priority for the U.S. world — but not for Interpol.

As noted by many authors, historians, and Interpol, the organization consistently refused to assist with the pursuit or apprehension of Nazi criminals. The group cites Article 1 of its constitution as the reason. The article states:

"It is strictly forbidden for the organization to undertake any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious, or racial character."

However, on other occasions

year, spokesmen for the World Jewish Congress also asked Interpol to bring this matter before the Interpol General Assembly. The Congress was turned down on both requests.

It has been documented that Interpol has actually gone beyond the point of merely not cooperating with searches for Nazis.

Author and Nazi hunter Ladislav Farago stated in 1976 that during his pursuit of Martin Bormann in South America, he established contacts with Interpol officials in such countries as Brazil, Argentina, Peru and Paraguay.

"In connection with my project," he said, "I had ample opportunity of ascertaining that they were ... actually protecting Nazi fugitives in South America, preventing rather than facilitating and/or expediting their apprehension and extradition."

"The result is that Interpol's protective curtain enables fugitive Nazis, including those tried in absentia and convicted by various member-nations of Interpol, to remain at large, not only unmolested, but actually protected and guarded by local police organizations in charge of aliens."

Interpol Intervened To Help Josef Mengele And Klaus Barbie

As examples, Farago cited the cases of Josef Mengele and Klaus Barbie, alias Klaus Altmann.

In a letter in 1976, Farago wrote, "Even when the extradition of Barbie-alias-Altmann was demanded, not by France on war criminal charges, but by neighboring Peru [Barbie-alias-Altmann was living in La Paz, Bolivia at the time] ... on such purely criminal

charges as currency speculation and smuggling, Interpol intervened to thwart his extradition and in support of the refusal of the Bolivian government to extradite Barbie.

"In a similar manner," he continued, "the efforts of federal judge Dr. Jorge Lauque of Buenos Aires, Argentina, to obtain the extradition of Dr. Mengele from Paraguay were staved off by the Interpol organizations in Argentina and Paraguay."

Interpol Pursues Political Refugees

Although Interpol has refused to help track down Nazis, it has engaged in the pursuit of political refugees.

In 1950, Czech officials used the Interpol network to hunt down a group of 10 Czech refugees who had fled to West Germany for political reasons. It

Member Countries of Interpol

There are 170 countries in the world. 150 of them (colored red) are members of Interpol.



Interpol and Individual Privacy

► "The peculiar thing is that Interpol has immunity as an Inter-Governmental Organization, while they are not such an organization.

"This puts them above the rules of privacy, especially those in relation to police. This is dangerous as it lays open the possibility of misuse of their system."

— Professor Bruno Lott, expert on international law, Stockholm, Sweden

In July 1975, the United Nation's Economic and Social Council officially approved Interpol as an Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO).

With this special IGO status, Interpol was able to establish relationships with governments around the world. This facilitated obtaining sensitive information on private individuals from government files.

Then U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, whose role as a former Nazi officer became the subject of international controversy in recent years, was instrumental in helping Interpol obtain its IGO status.

As mentioned in Chapter 2, in June 1983 then U.S. President Ronald Reagan issued an executive order which provided Interpol headquarters, its officers and employees complete immunity from any lawsuits in the United States.

This grant of immunity was the direct result of an intensive lobbying effort by Interpol aimed at shielding

itself from liability in U.S. courts for violations of the rights or privacy of American citizens.

In 1984, Interpol headquarters was granted complete immunity by the French government through the Interpol Headquarters Agreement, detailed in Chapter 2.

This "seal agreement" protected Interpol from having to disclose the contents of its files, and also sheltered the organization and its offices from legal accountability for their actions.

This immunity was again the result of a forceful effort by Interpol, including a threat to move the organization's headquarters out of France if such blanket immunity was not forthcoming.

According to an October 13, 1981, article in the German newspaper, *Frankfurter Rundschau*, Interpol had threatened to move to a nation that did not have strict data protection laws, i.e., somewhere outside Western Europe, if it were not excluded from such laws by being given immunity.

As a result of these agreements, Interpol has managed to put itself above the law, so that an injured party has virtually no recourse.

The National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice (NCLE) has documented numerous cases of individuals claiming to have been jailed, harassed and even physically abused by foreign police officials because of false reports circulated by Interpol.

U.S. Interpol Chief Censured

One of these cases involved Dr. M.S., an Afghan economist with the International Monetary Fund who, in 1973, was working in Washington, D.C., and living in Maryland.

M.S., who asked that his name not be used for fear of losing his job, was divorced, and a Maryland court had given him custody of his two young children.

Late in 1973, despite the court order, his former wife took the children to Florida.

Two years later, after a long period of fruitless negotiations to recover his children, M.S. took matters into his own hands. In May 1975, he traveled to Florida and took the children back to Maryland.

M.S. then decided to fly with the children to Afghanistan. The three of them caught a flight to their homeland.

Meanwhile, M.S.'s ex-wife had called Interpol's U.S. NCB. Based on unverified and untrue information provided by her, then U.S. Interpol chief Louis Sims sent out requests for M.S.'s arrest and extradition on kidnapping charges.

As a result of these requests, M.S. was arrested when the plane made a stop in Wiesbaden, West Germany.

He was held against his will in solitary confinement for nearly four days before the U.S. State Department could intervene and get him released. Meanwhile, his children were taken away from him and handed over to his ex-wife. M.S. was branded a kidnaper in Interpol files.

In addition to forwarding unverified and untrue information, Interpol chief Sims had bypassed the correct diplomatic channels in requesting M.S.'s arrest. Circumvention of these channels renders any arrest request invalid.

This was laid out clearly in a telex about the case that the State Department later sent to its embassy in Bonn: "AS EMBASSY AWARE A REQUEST FOR PROVISIONAL ARREST NOT SENT VIA DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL IS NOT VALID UNDER TREATY."

The State Department's assistant legal adviser, K.E. Malmberg, subsequently wrote to the U.S. Interpol chief, censuring him for Interpol's actions. "From time to time in the past," he said, "we have had difficulty with people being arrested abroad for extradition on instructions from Interpol."

"Recently such a request resulted in the arrest of an Afghanistani in Germany ... and the offense of which he was accused isn't even extraditable."

False Information And Harassment

In another example documented by NCLE, an American businessman named Pierre Dupuy went to a Central American port in early 1976 in order to purchase a ship and bring it back to the United States. Although he and his crew had broken no laws, Interpol agents interrogated members of the crew.

The National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice has documented numerous cases of individuals claiming to have been jailed, harassed and even physically abused by foreign police officials because of false reports circulated by Interpol.

The agents falsely accused crew members of passport violations and had one crew member arrested for no apparent reason. This and other forms of harassment from the Interpol agents caused the ship's sailing to be delayed.

The businessman was eventually allowed to take his ship to San Diego, but the delays and problems caused by Interpol's harassment cost him a great deal of time and money.

According to his written statement, "I have committed no crime yet was hounded ... by Interpol agents and agents of a foreign country, my crew held in jail for no apparent law violations."

Illegal Actions By Interpol Officials

In another instance, *FREEDOM Magazine* obtained an affidavit from a former U.S. Interpol agent working abroad, declaring that in 1963 Interpol agents planned drugs on individuals and in their homes in order to make arrests and to set people up for imprisonment.

The agent, whose name was withheld at his request, included numerous details in his six-page affidavit, signed in September 1976, of illegal activities and violations of individual rights by Interpol agents and officials with whom he had worked. Here are short excerpts:

o "[Name deleted] then gave me 500 Lire and told me to go downtown and buy some ... jugs ... used for the illegal manufacturing of heroin ... so we could leave them around the house and make it look as though we had busted a heroin manufacturing facility. We had not caught a manufacturing facility."

o "[Name deleted] knew that I knew a person named El Haras. [Name deleted] told me that he wanted to bust El Haras very bad. [Name deleted] wanted to set El Haras up.... I said I would not set him up. [Name deleted] then asked me if I would invite El Haras to my apartment so that he [Name deleted] could talk with him. I told him I would do that."

"That same day, [Name deleted] told me that he had acquired 330 grams of heroin. When El Haras came over to see me, before he got in the door, 10 to 15 police jumped on him. They then said they found 330 grams of heroin on him. He did not have it.... It was a set-up."

Murder and Cover-Up

In another case, involving murder and dissemination of false information, a British professor, John Cast-

land, was killed in France in March 1973. His 28-year-old son, Jeremy, who had been traveling with his father, was injured by the attackers.

Young Cartland was interrogated by French police for six hours at the hospital and for nine hours more at a police station. Blinded by bright lights, he was hit on his forehead, struck in the stomach, and pressured to "signify" his killing his father.

The British Consulate intervened, and Cartland was freed.

Jeremy then launched his own investigation into the attack on his father and himself. He charged that the French police, acting on Interpol's false information, had attempted to frame him.

He returned to France for hearings as he tried to get to the bottom of his father's murder.

Although the search for the murderers was fruitless, on one of young Cartland's trips, a magistrate told one of his lawyers that he had documentation from Interpol that Cartland was a liar.

As Cartland described it, "The afternoon session had started and Detmas [the magistrate] reached dramatically into his desk drawer and read out the message from Interpol in which [a] Professor Cameron was said to have described me as 'a liar who could not be trusted.' He [the magistrate] even placed the Interpol note in our presence to confirm the authenticity of the report."

Cartland's lawyers, however, reached Professor Cameron, who indignantly denied writing any such report.

It was eventually revealed that Jeremy's father had worked with the French Resistance as part of British intelligence during World War II. He had also been the first intelligence man to enter German headquarters in Brussels, where he located a list of French and Belgian Nazi collaborators.

According to a special report published by FREEDOM in 1975, "Officials admitted that Cartland's wartime activities may be connected to his mysterious death...."

Sensitive Data on Private Citizens Released

The consequences of Interpol's actions are such that the privacy rights of many people can be violated through careless dissemination of information. For example, in August 1980, Interpol's U.S. NCB mistakenly sent several computer tapes compiled by U.S. law

The consequences of Interpol's actions are such that the privacy rights of many people can be violated through careless dissemination of information.

Human rights advocates have pointed out how easily sensitive data on private citizens can fall into the wrong hands.

enforcement agencies to a private computer company in Ottawa called Advanced Information Technologies (AIT) Corporation.

The tapes reportedly contained sensitive information on individuals, that had come from the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Spokesmen for Interpol and AIT downplayed the incident. However, human rights advocates pointed out that the official demonstrated how easily sensitive data on private citizens can fall into the wrong hands.

Interpol Dossier, 1975.

Today, through its computer linkage with the U.S. NCB, Interpol has access to information contained in the files of the Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Customs, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other federal agencies.

In fact, these agencies have representatives working directly at Interpol headquarters in Lyon, France, and passing information back and forth to the Interpol General Secretariat, in direct violation of U.S. privacy laws. It should be noted again that Interpol is a private organization, not a government body.

In addition, members of other NCBs and governments around the world are employed at Interpol headquarters.

As described in Chapter 4, Interpol's leaders have claimed that the Interpol General Secretariat consists of international police officers who have given up their allegiance to their individual countries for the term assigned to Interpol.

Furthermore, through its State Liaison Program in the United States, Interpol now may be provided with information directly from the law enforcement files of individual U.S. state governments.

This opens the door to wholesale abuse of individual rights and massive invasion of privacy, as information held by the states on individuals can be carelessly disseminated to Interpol's 150 member countries.

The problem is an international one. According to a November 30, 1980, article in the German newspaper, *Die Welt*, the heart of Interpol's new headquarters in Lyon is a massive computer, one of the world's fastest. Interpol admits the computer has

enough storage capacity to hold detailed information on 220,000 people. *Die Welt* reported that the Interpol computer can receive and process 1,000,000 inquiries a year, redistributing the information at once after processing to any number of Interpol offices around the world — 3,000 messages a day containing sensitive details of private citizens.

Individual Rights Violated

The accumulation of hundreds of thousands of dossiers on private citizens without their knowledge or consent leads itself to abuse.

The case of Susanne B. from Munich, Germany, provides an example. As reported by the Munich newspaper, *Abschweifung*, on January 3, 1980, Susanne, whose last name has been deleted from all press accounts, suffered no less than three false arrests.

In each instance, her identity was confused with that of an international terrorist, Susanne Albrecht. On each occasion, Susanne B., who bears no resemblance to the terrorist, has been apprehended by police with German-issued weapons. Each time, she was on holiday in Italy.

According to *Abschweifung*, in 1981, three carabinieri armed with machine guns burst into Susanne's Vienna hotel room in the middle of the night. She was taken to a police station and held overnight, seven hours of interrogation, as well as numerous body searches.

It was found that the problem had originated in the German police computers of the Federal Criminal Office in Wiesbaden, the seat of the Interpol National Central Bureau in Germany, which maintains communications with Interpol headquarters in the handling down of terrorists.

Susanne had gotten into the police computers based on some anonymous

hint that she might be Susanne Albrecht.

When she filed a complaint with the Federal Criminal Office via her lawyer, she received the calming reply, "All concerned search/interrogation measures have been cancelled."

Her lawyer was informed, "The Italian officials were also requested via telex to cancel the name of your client in all their data systems." He was also told, "All personal data regarding your client have been cancelled from our domestic data banks/data collections."

"Nobody can tell how many people are in jail in any of the 150 member countries of Interpol, having committed no crime, just because local police received an anonymous or unverified report on them."

"Interpol headquarters has continued its refusal to submit itself to an independent control of its data flow. There is only one remaining alternative: that the various member countries cancel their memberships."

Susanne had no reason to feel calmed, however, upon her next visit to Italy. That came in June 1982, when she was surrounded by a swarm of police in civilian attire in an open piazza in Vienna and arrested at gunpoint.

In November 1984, while staying in a hotel in Grosseau, six police, disguised themselves as a heating and repair crew, apprehended Susanne in

her hotel room. The "repair crew" had a machine gun and bullet-proof jacket.

Understandably very upset by this string of false arrests, Susanne pointed out how easily a bullet might have been fired by accident during any of the three incidents.

Abschweifung reported that Italian police officials even told Susanne B., after the third incident, that she could happen again, at any time.

Francois Bonnet, editorial columnist to the *Church of Scientology's Enquirer & Liberator* in Paris, stated, "The example of Susanne B. shows the danger of uncontrolled personal data flow via Interpol. While the false information from the Federal Criminal Office could be corrected in Germany due to the domestic data protection laws, this did not occur in Italy."

"Nobody can tell how many people are in jail in any of the 150 member countries of Interpol, having committed no crime, just because local police received an anonymous or unverified report on them."

"Interpol headquarters has continued its refusal to submit itself to an independent control of its data flow. There is only one remaining alternative: that the various member countries cancel their memberships."

Protection of Individuals

Western European nations have taken the lead in providing protection of the privacy rights of individuals.

One major step to help private citizens was taken by the Council of Europe in January 1981, when it passed the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Respect to Automatic Processing of Personal Data.

This convention states in Article 6, "Personal data revealing racial origin, political opinions or religious or other beliefs, as well as personal data

by the Belgian representative, who stated he would only sign the treaty if all partners agreed that Interpol would not be the central body charged with police cooperation in the five countries.

The trend is away from cooperation with Interpol, with countries setting up their own independent means of transmitting information on criminals via safer, more effective lines.

■ Consequences of the Interpol Headquarters Agreement

André Bossard, former secretary general of Interpol, wrote in the April 1985 edition of Interpol's *International Criminal Police Review* that a 1972 agreement with the French government had "made no provisions for the inviolability of the headquarters, for immunity from legal process, or for protection of the organization's archives."

With the Interpol Headquarters Agreement in effect since 1984, the group now enjoys nearly complete immunity from responsibility or oversight. This immunity was lauded by Bossard in the same article: "I consider the privileges and immunities provided for in the headquarters agreement to be of vital importance."

The provisions of the headquarters agreement include:

- Article 7, which states, "The archives of the organization and, in general, all documents belonging to or held by it in whatever form, shall be inviolable wherever they are located;" 1984

- Article 18, which gives immunity not only to Interpol as an organization, but also to its individual staff members, whether they are currently employed by Interpol or have left the organization.

■ "Above the Rules of Privacy"

The key which first opened doors around the world for Interpol, enabling it to gain immunity and thereby operate with impunity, is its Inter-Governmental Organization status from the United Nations.

In November 1989, Professor Douwe Korff, an international legal expert in Holland and adviser to Amnesty International, told the publishers of this booklet, "The peculiar thing is that Interpol has immunity as an Inter-Governmental Organization, while they are not such an organization."

"This puts them above the rules of privacy, especially those in relation to police. This is dangerous as it lays open the possibility of misuse of their system." ▲

CHAPTER SIX

35

Interpol Under Investigation

► "... Interpol [was] organized as a private organization by police officers, never submitted its constitution for ratification by any government, [and] has located its headquarters in France where it has been granted immunity from the legal process by the Government of the French Republic, thereby placing the organization above the laws of any land, not being legally accountable for its acts;

"... [I] individuals and organizations have been unable to rectify the files on them that Interpol, while having conclusively proven they were false, has sent uncontrolled across borders, secretly showing them to judges, leading in several cases to wrong imprisonment of the civilians involved; [and]

"... Interpol insists that its highest priority is stopping the flow of international drug trafficking, while in recent years, Interpol officials have been reported as being involved in drug trafficking in several South American countries and possibly others."

— Motion for a Resolution, Council of Europe, July 4, 1989

Numerous investigations into Interpol have been carried out over the years.

Interpol was investigated in May 1975 by a U.S. Senate panel chaired by Senator Joseph Montoya. The senator was concerned about Interpol's involvement in intelligence activities.

As described in Chapter 4, Interpol is forbidden by its charter from engaging in matters of a political, military, religious or racial character. Intelligence activities, being inherently

political, would constitute violations of the charter.

During questioning by the senator, Interpol's then secretary general, Jean Nepote, asserted, "We have never had any reason whatsoever even to suspect any employee of being an intelligence agent."

■ Interpol Involved in Intelligence Activities

However, subsequent testimony by the National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice

(NCLE) before the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Treasury Appropriations revealed that Interpol was involved in intelligence activities.

Documents provided to the subcommittee in 1977 by NCLE made it clear that Interpol performs intelligence work. The papers showed that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was using Interpol as a "front" in at least one country where, according to the documents, "The government... would be embarrassed, and our foreign rela-

tions with that government consequently disrupted, if it were officially acknowledged that it cooperated with the CIA."

Another example of the intertwining of Interpol and intelligence was publicly exposed in July 1988. Zhu Eniao of the People's Republic of China, a member of Interpol's Executive Committee, was refused entry to the United States based on evidence that Eniao had served as the case officer for Larry Wu-Tai Chin, a former CIA translator who committed suicide in 1966 after being convicted of selling classified information.

GAO Probes Interpol

In 1976, a U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) investigation of U.S. involvement in Interpol was done at the request of Congressman John E. Moss and Senator Monroney.

After a random sampling of cases handled by the U.S. NCB, GAO investigators determined that most cases involved individuals with no prior criminal record.

"Requests made to the U.S. Bureau generally did not involve established international criminals or large crime syndicates," their report stated.

Further, almost half of the sample cases reviewed by the GAO showed that Interpol requested information on individuals based on inadequate documentation of alleged offenses. This in turn led to the creation of files on private citizens at the agencies contacted.

The GAO report also pointed out the dangers of a country's data being passed into the hands of foreign intelligence agencies. "In some countries," the report stated, "the alliance of foreign police systems with the intelligence branches certainly does not preclude the sharing of such information."

During visits to foreign NCBs, GAO investigators were assured that information provided by the United States to recipient countries was restricted to police channels. In their report, however, they concluded, "There is no practical way to insure

this is the only use made of the information."

The GAO investigated Interpol again in 1987, and found that the "U.S. NCB generally does not attempt to verify the data it receives from other law enforcement agencies or other automated systems, but relies on the collection agency to ensure accuracy."

Interpol Involvement in Drug Trafficking and Other Crimes

Calls for investigations into Interpol have increased, as evidence of top Interpol officials' involvement in drug trafficking and other illegalities has continued to surface.

In 1989 alone, investigations of this private police group or its top officials were demanded in numerous countries, and by an international body, the Council of Europe.¹

¹ The Council of Europe, a 23-member body of European countries, was established to foster greater unity and cooperation among the nations and peoples of Europe through each of their parliaments and governments.

Council of Europe Members Ask for Investigation

On July 4, 1989, 13 members of the Council of Europe issued a motion calling for an extensive investigation of Interpol.

The motion stated, in part:

Interpol "operates internationally with no governmental oversight from any of its member organizations";

"Interpol provides dossiers, on request, via computer interlink, to police organizations in member countries around the world, amongst which are Iran and Libya who have [been] shown to be involved in international terrorism";

"... Interpol [was] organized as a private organization by police officers, never submitted its constitution for ratification by any government, [and] has located its headquarters in France where it has been granted immunity from the legal process by the Government of the French Republic, thereby placing the organization above the laws of any land, not being legally accountable for its acts;

"... [I]ndividuals and organizations have been unable to rectify the files on them that Interpol, while having conclusively proven they were false, has sent uncontrolled across borders, secretly showing them to judges, leading in several cases to wrong imprisonment of the civilians involved; [and]

"... Interpol insists that its highest priority is stopping the flow of international drug trafficking, while in recent years, Interpol officials have been reported as being involved in drug trafficking in several South American countries and possibly others."

The motion calls for the following:

"a. The status of Interpol with the Council of Europe should be reviewed;

"b. An inventory of transgressions committed by Interpol should be drawn up;



Australian Member of Parliament Lewis Kent, left, has demanded answers to questions concerning Interpol's finances, constitution, accountability, Nazi past, and connections with drug trafficking. In early 1989, Colombia's President Barco Vargas, center, fired his Interpol head and chief of police, José Guillermo Medina Sanchez, following allegations that Medina was on the payroll of the Medellín drug cartel. David Noriega, right, of the Chamber of Representatives of Puerto Rico has attacked the drug trafficking activities of top Interpol officials and called for an investigation into the private police group.

"c. Effective ways to control the International Criminal Police Organization, Interpol, in a democratic fashion should be considered ... so that Interpol hereafter will be accountable for its acts;

"d. Strict measures should be elaborated and recommended to ensure that... a refusal by Interpol to reveal and rectify files on request by an individual or organization is scrutinized by an independent, democratically chosen committee that controls Interpol...."

Mexican Attorney General Investigates Former Interpol Chief

Mexican Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo announced on July 6, 1989, that the former head of Interpol in Mexico, Miguel Aldana Ibarra, was being investigated on charges of corruption and drug trafficking.

The charges stemmed from Aldana's complicity in the murder of a prominent journalist in 1984, and also

from his alleged activities in protecting and taking money from drug traffickers.

Australian MP Questions Interpol

On October 26, 1989, the Honorable Lewis Kent, Australian Member of Parliament, demanded answers of the country's attorney general regarding Australia's involvement with Interpol.

Among the points of his formal interrogatory were the following:

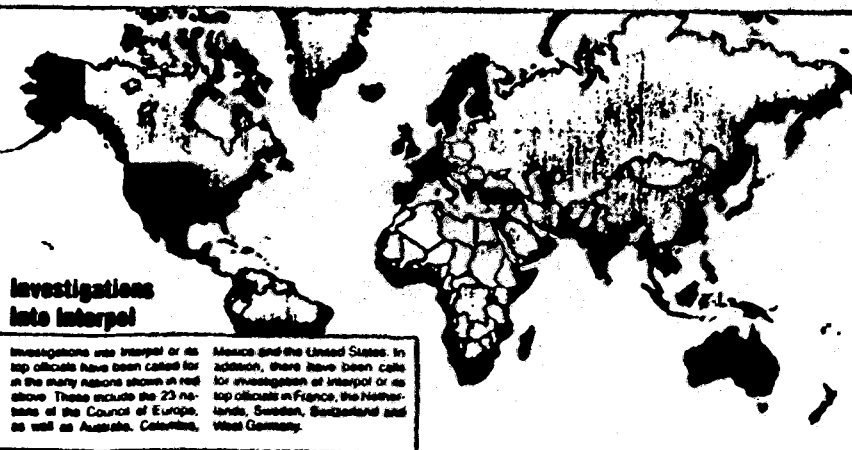
"Which Australian police unit is charged with the responsibility to cooperate and/or to maintain contact with Interpol?

"How many persons serve in the unit?

"What is the cost of maintaining the unit?

"What is Australia's annual financial contribution to Interpol?

"... how many former war criminals were tracked down after World War II by Interpol, or with significant assistance by Interpol, if so, is the able



Investigations into Interpol

Investigations into Interpol or its top officials have been called for in the many nations shown in red above. These include the 23 nations of the Council of Europe, as well as Australia, Colombia, Mexico and the United States. In addition, there have been calls for investigation of Interpol or its top officials in France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and West Germany.

to provide their names?
"Have the Interpol charter and its constitution been submitted for ratification by Australia?"

"Will the Australian government support moves to bring Interpol under the control of, and make it accountable to, an international body such as the UN or the International Court of Justice?"

Mr. Kent also sought information from the attorney general in regard to the involvement of Interpol officials in drug trafficking and Interpol's violation of Article 3 of its constitution — i.e., breaking its own rules and interfering in matters of a political, military, religious or racial character.

Colombian Interpol Official Investigated in Corruption

On February 20, 1989, *Time* magazine reported that General José Gaitán Méndez Sánchez, Colombia's Interpol chief and head of the country's National Police, had been fired by President Virgilio Barco Vargas after the general came under suspicion of being on the payroll of Medellín drug kingpin Pablo Escobar Gaviria.

In March 1989, Colombia's Supreme Court ordered a formal probe into Méndez's role in drug smuggling

and into reports that he frustrated attempts to capture two of the Medellín cartel drug lords in Colombia.

Panama Interpol Chief

As covered earlier in this hand-book, the former Interpol chief of

Calls for investigations into Interpol have increased, as evidence of top Interpol officials' involvement in drug trafficking and other illegal activities has continued to surface.

Panama and Noriega's close lieutenant, Nivaldo Madrizán, was placed in jail by U.S. forces in January 1990 at Fort Clayton in Panama, and murder charges were filed against him.

Madrizán had access to confidential drug trafficking information from Interpol headquarters, and was in attendance at the November/December 1989 Interpol General Assembly in

Lyón, just a few weeks prior to his imprisonment.

Puerto Rican Representative Calls for Investigation

On January 31, 1990, a member of the Chamber of Representatives of Puerto Rico, David Noriega (no relation to the former Panamanian dictator), decried the drug trafficking activities of top Interpol officials and called for an investigation into plans for a regional office of Interpol on the island.

A resolution Rep. Noriega introduced into the Chamber of Representatives stated that "Recent reports reveal that the director of Interpol of Panama was involved in the drug trafficking activities of General Manuel Antonio Noriega in Panama."

A thorough probe was needed, he stated, "considering especially the immunities that Interpol demands ... and the abuses that can be perpetrated under such immunities."

Other Probes Demanded

As of early 1990, there were also calls for investigations of Interpol or top Interpol officials in Sweden, West Germany, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the United States. ▲

Is Interpol Really Necessary?

... to many veteran law officers who have dealt with Interpol, it is a slow-moving, archaic bureaucracy which seldom performs useful work."

— Robert Williams in *Panama magazine*

Interpol's stated aim is "To ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities within the limits of the law, existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Rather than accomplishing this aim, top Interpol officials have been fostering a climate conducive to crime, turning a blind eye to the world's most serious offenses, and exploiting their positions in order to protect or forward criminal activities.

The question arises as to whether Interpol itself, with its many liabilities, is necessary. Are there other systems that could provide the same services as Interpol, but without the risks and violations of civil rights?

Other Police Liaison Functions Exist

What is most significant about Interpol's activities is that member

nations already use other means of handling international police liaison functions.

In the United States, for example, where taxpayers pay millions annually to finance the Washington Interpol office, channels exist for sending law enforcement communications overseas via the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Customs Service and other law enforcement agencies.

In Europe, any penal prosecutions and extraditions between two nations are normally governed under bilateral agreements. The various EEC countries have also passed a special convention in this regard.

Since arrests in Interpol member nations are made by national agencies within those countries — not by Interpol — no proper law enforcement functions would be lost if Interpol did not exist.

The U.S. State Department, through U.S. embassy officers, has a

system for reporting on the status of Americans arrested abroad. The United States also has a "Legal" (short for legal attaché) system as part of the FBI. FBI Legats are attached to American embassies around the world. Their functions include liaison with foreign police and many of the other activities of an Interpol NCB.

A December 27, 1976, General Accounting Office (GAO) report provided evidence which demonstrates that Interpol's functions are superfluous and that Interpol itself is ineffective.

After a careful study of Interpol, the GAO noted that "foreign police and National Central Bureaus make extensive use of non-Interpol channels in dealing with U.S. matters. Our overseas discussions indicated that foreign police prefer the communication channels of overseas U.S. agencies to satisfy criminal information needs."

The Drug Enforcement Administration, FBI Customs, and, to a lesser

Is Interpol Really Necessary?

extent, such agencies as the Secret Service and Immigration and Naturalization Service, have official liaison with the world.

"The tendency of foreign police and central bureaus is to try to obtain information through these agencies because they are considered safer, more reliable than Interpol in terms of the types of cases they handle, and more effective at least in cooperation with providing information relevant to immediate investigatory matters." (Emphasis added.)

Police Cooperation

Local police forces have their own means of dealing with foreign police. For example, there is a Foreign Prosecution Section in the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) which specifically deals with tracking down and apprehending criminals, or suspects in foreign countries.

This section primarily uses the FBI Legats or the LAPD's own direct contacts with foreign police. According to an officer in this section, the LAPD only used Interpol two or three times between 1985 and 1989.

The U.S. Justice Department maintains offices in certain cities which help smaller police departments coordinate with foreign police forces to track down and apprehend wanted criminals.

The Justice Department also maintains a Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC) in each of the U.S. judicial districts. Each committee consists of representatives from the various local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in a district; it will if necessary help these agencies liaise with foreign law enforcement agencies to apprehend criminals and prepare extradition papers.

Additionally, as the 1976 GAO report noted, the vast majority of foreign requests to the United States for

information regarding crimes are made directly to overseas offices of U.S. agencies.

Government Agencies

"Simply Do Not Trust Interpol"

A reason why Interpol is not utilized to a greater extent by member nations was outlined to FREEDOM Magazine by a former U.S. Marshals Service official who requested anonymity. The fact is, he said, government agencies "simply do not trust Interpol."

The 1976 GAO report showed that

Top Interpol officials have been fostering a climate conducive to crime, turning a blind eye to the world's most serious offenders, and exploiting their positions in order to protect or forward criminal activities.

The Washington Interpol office was quite careless in sending information about citizens abroad without first determining if record checks and investigations on individuals were even justified.

Invoice invoice cited by the GAO, Interpol's U.S. NCB sent sensitive information to a foreign NCB concerning a U.S. citizen even though the State Department had submitted a formal diplomatic note to the country complaining that the individual had been mistreated during interrogation.

"Interpol is a Multinational Company"

Another reason Interpol is not used is because, when it comes to the job of apprehending criminals, Interpol is

slow and cumbersome. An example of this occurred following the arrest in Montpellier, France, of a criminal wanted by police in the West German city of Munich.

The Munich police had been looking for the man for months and had sent a letter to this effect to Interpol headquarters in Paris in August 1981. French police subsequently arrested the man, but Interpol headquarters didn't consider it necessary to inform the Munich police of that fact.

In December 1981, the German police computer still listed the criminal as being wanted. The Munich police later discovered the area from an entirely different source of information.

Concerning on this case, Herman Ego, district chairman of the German Federation of Criminal Police, stated, "Unfortunately, this is not the only case. Sometimes requests take years and longer. Interpol is a multibillion company."

A journalist for a German newspaper wrote in December 1981, "Interpol in Paris, which is supposed to coordinate the police work of around 100 countries, still works with the style of a sausage shop... as primitive and slow as 100 years ago. We get the bill in the form of higher rates of criminality."

Interpol "Sedates Performance Speed"

The perception of Interpol as a slow and bungling organization is not new. In an article entitled "Does Interpol Thwart Your Privacy?" in the November 9, 1975, issue of *Parade*, Robert Walters wrote: "In novels of international intrigue, Interpol is an infallible, high-powered, worldwide police department whose agents roam the globe in search of master criminals."

"But to many veteran law officers who have dealt with Interpol, it is a

slow-moving, archaic bureaucracy which seldom performs useful work."

The September 22, 1974, issue of the *London Sunday Times* stated that Interpol "is considered an interference by many police forces in the world." In fact, slow-moving, archaic — if those words describe the real Interpol, then what is this group, with its multimillion-dollar budget and its

worldwide network of employees, actually doing?

As documented by information in this handbook, top Interpol officials throughout the world have been linked to drug trafficking, complicity in murder, protection of major drug cartels, bribery, political corruption, and money laundering.

Interpol's results in the areas it is

supposed to handle are all but nonexistent; the few arrests that do result from its work are mainly of small-time drug users.

Meanwhile, drug cartels and major drug traffickers continue to operate virtually unhindered. ▲

the effectiveness to handle this situation in the Europe of 1992.

Willy Helin, spokesman for the European Communities' Executive Commission, was quoted in the same article as follows: "We have to ensure that things like drugs can be controlled. As we progress along the path toward political integration, we will eventually need a police force that corresponds to that sort of dimension."

Interpol, the article pointed out, was inadequate to meet these needs.

What Has Been Done?

In Chapter 6, it was described how members of the Council of Europe proposed a resolution to thoroughly investigate Interpol in its member countries and from there make their recommendations.

The Council of Europe members stated:

"a. The status of Interpol with the Council of Europe should be reviewed;

"b. An inventory of transgressions committed by Interpol should be drawn up;

"c. Effective ways to control the International Criminal Police Organization, Interpol, in a democratic fashion should be considered ... so that Interpol hereafter will be accountable for its acts...."

In Australia, Member of Parliament Lewis Kent presented an interpellatory to the attorney general of Australia regarding Interpol, its legal status, dissemination of information, and its involvement with drug trafficking.

United States Congressman Don Edwards requested that the General Accounting Office investigate Interpol in 1987, and has been interested in the privacy violations caused by Interpol's dissemination of information since that time.



Left: A more effective European alternative to Interpol has been proposed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Right: In 1987, U.S. Congressman Don Edwards requested that the U.S. government's General Accounting Office investigate Interpol.

The attorney general for Mexico, Enrique Alvarez del Castillo, has been actively investigating former Interpol chief Miguel Aldana Ibarra and his drug trafficking activities while heading Interpol. As part of this investigation, information is being disclosed regarding Interpol headquarters' dissemination of information to the Mexican NCB while the past two Mexican Interpol chiefs, the recipients of confidential drug data, have been drug traffickers.

The former Interpol chief in Panama, Nivaldo Madriñan, was placed in jail by U.S. armed forces in January 1990, and murder charges were filed against him. Interpol's actions in support of Noriega and Madriñan and their corrupt activities helped to tear that country apart.

In light of such actions, Interpol is under scrutiny throughout the world, which is the first step — awareness that something is wrong and needs to change. Based on these investigations, recommendations will be made and implemented.

A Public Menace

Interpol is a private group that is a public menace, out of control.

It is not a governmental agency, and it is not subject to any government.

It operates in violation of its own charter and many of its top officials have broken the law.

As noted by members of the Council of Europe, thorough investigation of its transgressions is warranted.

Interpol has shown by its actions that it should not have the authority and immunity it currently enjoys.

If you agree that the Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) status given to Interpol by the United Nations should be revoked, your opinion and voice in this regard should be made known to the United Nations' Economic and Social Council. The address is in the Appendices. Write and let your views be known.

If you care about individual rights, privacy and freedom, support measures to have your nation's membership in Interpol withdrawn, and Interpol's charter cancelled. ▲

Appendices

